

Public Health Committee:

I'm writing to testify AGAINST S.B.477, sec. 7 (pg 8), lines 229-339. What is being proposed is already in existence within Connecticut's present governmental system. We don't need to create, fund and populate another committee of our overworked representatives and their staff in a duplication of work, and an UNNEEDED expenditure of funds. We already have a Public health Fund and it's paying for this work elsewhere.

Also, I'm writing to testify AGAINST HB 5397 in its entirety. "Gun Violence" is NOT a Public Health Emergency! First, violence is violence regardless of the tool used - fists, purse, baseball bat, knife, cars, etc., and yes, even a gun. (We had massive amounts of violence in the Summer of 2020, and an infinitesimal amount was gun related.) Second, the sources and causes of the violence, NOT THE TOOLS, are what we should concentrate our time, money and efforts to fix. And we have these programs, and THAT'S where we should put the money. (U.S. Government statistics show that 64% of gun-related deaths are SUICIDES, and suicides are NOT caused by firearms but they are caused by mental health problems - which is where we should concentrate our and your efforts. And since the Feds are already spending \$400,000,000 on this, let's make sure we're getting our fair share!)

Thank you.

Harding Dies
Norwalk, CT